

Patent Application Serial No. 10/589,254

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended and claims 2-4 have been canceled without prejudice to reentry. New claims 7-8 are supported in, e.g., Fig. 4 (112/113, and 351/352). The amendment to claim 1 is supported in canceled claims 2-4, and the amendment to claim 6 is supported in claim 1. In response to the Office Action dated April 27, 2009:

Claims 1-6 were rejected under §102 over Naoki, US 7,069,564. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Two Applied Embodiments. The rejection applies elements of the reference without regard to their embodiments or relationship. It is noted that Figs. 22A-22C are disclosed as a “comparative example” while Figs. 22D-22F show Naoki’s invention (col. 18, lines 27-31), and these have completely different detection schemes.

In Figs. 22A-22C a cartridge 101 is detected by the “tip” (pin) of a switch 33 (col. 18, lines 44-47). The switch is mounted on the lift bar 31, and so is its tip. The figures show that the tip does not engage with any hole in the tray 30; only the boss 31a does that (col. 18, line 41). The boss is not a detector or switch. The Examiner is referred to Fig. 22C, in which the dot-dash line representing the cartridge 101 overlaps the tip, but the tip does not engage the tray 30. See also col. 18, line 42. Thus, this embodiment is contrary to the recitation in claim 1 that “the tray includes a detection hole through which the pin is inserted.”

Figs. 22D-22F show the same lever-actuated switch 17 that is also shown in Figs. 23A and 23B. In this embodiment the switch and the lever are mounted on the frame. The switch detects “the tray ... in front of the loading position, though fully separated” (col. 28, line 49).

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The Claims Would Not Be Reached. The Examiner is invited to consider:

(1) Neither embodiment discloses a detector that protrudes through a hole in the tray, so neither discloses the features of claim 1, “a detection section to come up from/come down into the mount surface of the tray,” or, “the tray includes a detection hole through which the pin is inserted.”

(2) Furthermore, neither discloses the combination of a frame-mounted switch and a tray-mounted pin. The Applicants’ detection section/pin is located on the tray—the last paragraph of claim 1, for example, implies this—and the switch is located on the frame. There is no disclosure of such a feature in the reference.

New claims 7-8 recite this feature more explicitly, and are patentable for this reason.

(3) Naoki’s plate spring 65 (Fig. 27) belongs to yet another embodiment, and has no relation to those discussed above, whereby there is no anticipation. Furthermore, the spring 65 does not exert force on elements analogous to those claimed by the Applicants. With respect, it does not anticipate.

Note. It is noted that the Naoki arrangement of Figs. 22A-22C is the same as that mentioned in the Background section of the Applicants’ specification, which states, “Conventionally, a switch section of a lead-in detection switch, write-protect switch, cartridge

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detection switch, or the like is provided on a tip end of the servomechanism chassis.... However, in [this] configuration ... the switch section is vertically moved along with the movement of the turntable provided on the servomechanism chassis to hold the recording medium [so] space efficiency may be degraded.”

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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